Revision in rates of LPG

†3203. PROF R. B. S. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times when the rates of LPG have been increased during the last one year alongwith the reasons for increasing these rates frequently;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to reduce the rate of LPG; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The ex-storage point price of domestic LPG was increased only once during the year 2001-2002 i.e. effective 1st March, 2002. The price was subsequently reduced effective 17th March, 2002. The reason for increasing the price was to contain the subsidy burden on account of domestic LPG.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Acquisition of overseas oilfields by ONGC

3204. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC proposes to acquire oilfields abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) ONGC-Videsh Ltd. (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

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† Origin a I notice of the question was received in Hindi.